

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1 of the specification, please insert the following paragraph after the title of the Application:

**Related Applications**

This application is a divisional of Application No. 10/793,372, filed February 26, 2003. The entire teachings of the above application are incorporated herein by reference.

On page 9 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 with the following paragraph:

--As used herein, a "single-stranded origin of replication" refers to a nucleic acid sequence at which replication of single-stranded DNA is initiated. A "single-stranded origin of replication" is strand and orientation specific and must be present in a single-stranded form to actively initiate replication. A "single-stranded origin of replication" useful in the present invention may include any single-stranded origin of replication known to those of skill in the art, or may be selected from *ssos*, *ssmA*, *ssmT*, *ssmW*, *ssmU* types of single-stranded origins of replication, or may be selected from the single-stranded origins of replication present in the following plasmids: pT181, pC221, pC223, pCW7, pHD2, pLUG10, pOg32, pS194, pT127, pTZ12, pUB112, pE194, pA1, pC1305, pCI411, pFX2, pKMK1, pLS1, pSH71, pWV01, pC194, pAM $\alpha$ 1, pBAA1, pBC1, pBC16, pBP614, pBS2, pA, pPL, pSSU1, p1414, pDC123, pC300, pCA2.4, pCB101, pCB2.4, pCC5.2, pFTB14, pGT5, pJDB21, pKYM, pLAB1000, pLot3, pLP1, pOX6, pRF1, pRBH1, pSH1451, pSN1981, pTA1060, pTD1, pTHT15, pUB110, pUH1, pVA380-1, pWC1, pEGB32, p353-2, pSN2, pBI143, pE5, pE12, pIM13, pNE131, pT48, pTCS1, pZMO2, pIJ101, pBL1, pJV1, pSG5, pSN22, pC1305, pG12, pGRB1, pHK2, pHPK255, pTX14-1, pTX14-3, PCR-ScriptAmpSK<sup>+</sup>, filamentous phage (f1),  $\Phi$ X174, pBR322[pB#322], or pVT736-1.--